

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-04 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 PM-05  
NSC-05 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 /115 R

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R 242152Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
USINT HAVANA  
XMT AMEMBASSY FREETOWN  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY BANGUI  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY BISSAU  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, MARCH 24, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF  
SECRETARY VANCE'S PRESS CONFERENCE, MARCH 24, 1978:

Q: ON THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION IN AFRICA, IS THE ADMINIS-  
TRATION PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE CUBAN FORCES THAT  
ARE NOW THERE MAY BE USED IN WHAT CAN BE A VERY VIOLENT  
CIVIL WAR IN RHODESIA?

A: WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN TROOPS  
IN AFRICA. WE BELIEVE THAT THE AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD  
BE RESOLVED BY AFRICANS THEMSELVES. WE HAVE MADE THIS  
VERY CLEAR IN OUR VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO THE CONFLICT IN  
THE HORN OF AFRICA, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THAT APPLIES  
ELSEWHERE.

Q: THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF RETRIBUTION AGAINST SOMALIS  
IN THE OGADEN. WHAT SORT OF INFORMATION DO WE HAVE AND  
HAVE WE BEEN ABLE TO CARRY OUT THE IMPLICIT PROMISES OF  
TRYING TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE THERE?

A: WE HAVE BEEN PRESSING THE OAU TO TAKE ACTION TO PUT  
INDIVIDUALS INTO ETHIOPIA TO MONITOR WHAT IS HAPPENING  
IN THE OGADEN. AT THIS POINT, THERE HAS BEEN A DECLINA-  
TION ON THE PART OF BOTH THE ETHIOPIANS AND THE SOMALIS TO  
SUPPORT SUCH ACTION IN THE OAU. AND AS A RESULT, IT HAS  
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BEEN DIFFICULT TO MOVE FORWARD. I STILL BELIEVE THAT  
THIS SHOULD BE DONE AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF THE OAU'S  
FACILITATING AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT IN THE AREA AS WELL AS  
PROTECTING THE PEOPLE FROM REPRISALS.

Q: I HAVE LEARNED FROM THE LIBERIA DESK THAT IN THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON LIBERIA THE  
ORIGINAL DRAFT INCLUDED THE RACIAL RESTRICTIONS ON VOTING  
AND PROPERTY RIGHTS THAT ARE IN ARTICLE 5 OF THE LIBERIAN  
CONSTITUTION. MY QUESTION IS DID THE WHITE HOUSE OR  
YOUR OFFICE OR SOMEONE ELSE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT  
ORDER THAT THIS INFORMATION BE DELETED?

A: NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE. I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON  
THAT.

Q: CAN I FOLLOW UP BY ASKING SINCE THE PRESIDENT SAID  
THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE ABSOLUTE,  
WILL THIS INFORMATION BE RESTORED TO THE NEXT HUMAN  
RIGHTS REPORT AND DO YOU BELIEVE THAT IT MIGHT BE  
DISCUSSED NEXT WEEK DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO  
MONROVIA?

A: I'LL HAVE TO CHECK INTO THE MATTER I SIMPLY CANNOT GIVE YOU AN ADEQUATE ANSWER AT THIS TIME.

Q: ON THE QUESTION OF THE REPORTED INCREASE OF CUBAN TROOPS TO MOZAMBIQUE, IS THE ADMINISTRATION CONCERNED THAT CUBAN FORCES MAY BE USED IN RHODESIA WHERE THERE IS A CIVIL WAR SITUATION AND WHAT WOULD BE THE ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE SHOULD THE CONFLICT ESCALATE?

A: THE QUESTION OF THE NUMBER OF OUTSIDE TROOPS IN MOZAMBIQUE IS ONE ON WHICH I THINK THE INFORMATION IS SUFFICIENTLY CLOUDY AT THIS POINT THAT I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE -- NOR ACCEPT WHAT I THINK MAY BE AN ASSUMED PREMISE IN WHAT UNCLASSIFIED

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YOU'VE STATED THAT THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER THERE, BECAUSE I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THAT IS THE CASE. INsofar AS THE FUTURE IS CONCERNED, AGAIN, I WOULD SAY THAT THE PRESENCE OF OUTSIDE TROOPS CANNOT HELP BUT EXACERBATE THE SITUATION. AND THEREFORE I THINK THAT ALL OF US, INCLUDING THE FRONT LINE STATES AND OTHERS IN THE AREA, MUST RE-DOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO TRY AND FIND A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. OTHERWISE, I AM AFRAID THAT THE CONFLICT THE FIGHTING WILL INCREASE AND THAT CERTAINLY IS IN NOBODY'S INTEREST. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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